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ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2019

The Honorable Ken Cuccinelli
Acting Director
United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
20 Massachusetts Avenue NW, MS 2090
Washington, D.C. 20529

Dear Acting Director Cuccinelli:

I am writing to request that urgent attention be given to your planned appearance before the Center for Immigration Studies (CIS). This is an organization which has long been a part of the extreme anti-immigration movement in the United States and was founded by white nationalist and eugenics proponent John Tanton. Your willingness to engage with such a group lends dangerous legitimacy to nativist and xenophobic ideologies of hate. This is unfitting of a senior official of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and I urge you to immediately cancel your planned appearance.

CIS consistently promotes the false narrative that immigration has a detrimental impact on American society and regularly circulates white nationalist and anti-Semitic content, including VDARE. In a May 2017 analysis by the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Center for New Community, it was revealed that CIS had shared white nationalist content more than 2,000 times in the last decade. CIS has publicly prescribed the "zero tolerance" policy implemented by the Trump Administration, calling it an "absolutely crucial" step to "reducing the flow of parents and their children."

At a time when the Administration is targeting immigrants and separating families seeking refuge and a better life, your participation in this event threatens to further embolden extreme anti-immigrant rhetoric and sentiment. This sends a chilling message to vulnerable communities across the country and further endangers our national security and community trust in our government.

At this moment, we must come together to condemn any political speech, group, movement, or figure who embraces the ideology of hate groups and white nationalists, including the false idea

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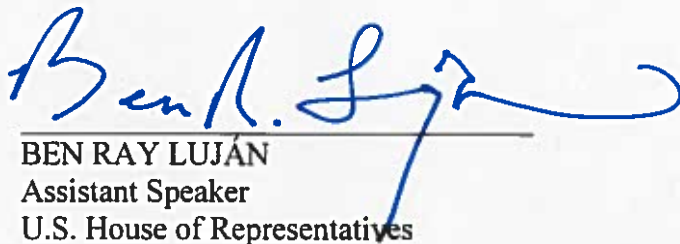
that immigrants are “invading” the United States or set on “replacing” our citizens. We have seen the deadly cost of this rhetoric. For example, the shooter in the El Paso, Texas massacre was motivated specifically by anti-Latino and anti-immigrant rhetoric. Such ideologies are antithetical to the founding principles of the United States, which assert that all men and women are created equal and that our nation benefits from the contributions of immigrants of all creeds and nationalities.

In the wake of the El Paso shootings, it is clear that white supremacy poses a significant threat to Hispanic, immigrant, African-American, Jewish, Muslim, and additional communities. It also threatens our collective security. According to statistics released by the FBI late last year, hate crimes in the U.S. rose 17 percent in 2017 compared to the previous year, part of a three-year upward trend. There were 7,175 hate crimes reported in 2017, and of the crimes motivated by hatred over race or ethnicity, nearly half were related to anti-black bias and almost 11 percent were related to anti-Hispanic bias.

There is simply no place for this kind of hate in America. Government officials and federal agencies must combat these hateful ideologies and should not lend a public stage to extremist groups or bigoted philosophies. I call on you to rescind your plans to headline the gathering hosted by CIS.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



BEN RAY LUJÁN
Assistant Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives